

Ringwood TASC Meeting Conference Call Notes

3.1.17 at 10:30 am

The following is a summary of meeting notes prepared by Eric Marsh and Kirby Webster from the conference call about TASC and community concerns related to the four documents TASC has been asked to review for the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Superfund site. Overall:

1. Attendees expressed a strong desire for a specific technical advisor because of the advisor's history at the Site. It is unlikely the TASC program will select this person as the technical advisor at this Site.
2. There does not currently appear to be interest in TASC review of the four documents.
3. There appears to be more interest in forming the CAG and applying for a TAG grant than in pursuing TASC assistance.

Attendees

Ben Nemser, Resident CAG Member
Bob Spiegel, Edison Wetlands Association
Doug Ruccione, Ringwood CARES
Eric Marsh, Skeo
John Speer, Mayor of Ringwood
Judy Sullivan, Chair, Ramapo Conservancy, Inc.
Judy Talbot, UVA IEN, CIP Plan
Kirby Webster, Skeo
Lisa Chiang, Ringwood CARES
Pat Seppi, EPA Region 2
Robin Canetti, Ringwood resident, CAG Member
Shannon Lisa, Edison Wetlands Association
Vivian Milligan, Ringwood resident
Wenke Taule, CAG Member for 10 years and former Mayor

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Overview
3. Questions on how TASC works
4. Community members on the call describe their general concerns about the Site
5. Questions on technical advising and what can be expected from a technical advisor
6. Expectations for next steps

Summary Notes

1. Introductions
 - ☐ Kirby Webster, Skeo, reviewed the agenda and explained the purpose of the call: to hear community member concerns related to the documents a TASC technical advisor has been asked to review, as follows:
 - 2016 Groundwater and Surface Water Investigations Report
 - Soil Sample Results for the O'Connor Disposal Area
 - Addendum to the Groundwater Remedial Investigation Report
 - Groundwater Feasibility Study Report
 - ☐ Call attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations.

2. TASC Overview

- ☐ TASC program is a contract that Skeo holds with EPA.
- ☐ EPA gives Skeo direction on work to begin.
- ☐ Skeo can only conduct work that is in the direction from EPA.
- ☐ If additional work requests are needed, those requests need to be made to Pat Seppi, the EPA Region 2 Community Involvement Coordinator.
- ☐ Part of Skeo's responsibility is to identify an appropriate technical advisor lead.
- ☐ The technical advisor works with a team to review documents and prepare written materials.

3. Questions on how TASC works

- ☐ Can TASC only review the four documents?
Yes, that is what our current authorization allows, although if the technical advisor needs to look at supporting documents to conduct the review of these four documents, that is allowable.
- ☐ Will the technical advisor be independent?
Yes.
- ☐ Will there be a time limit for the document review or is it open ended?
We will coordinate with the group to make sure that document reviews are conducted in a timely manner and fits community needs, to the extent that we are able.
- ☐ Who will be printing the TASC documents?
We will make sure to answer these questions and have a plan determined once we begin working with you.
- ☐ How do we amend the current work that is authorized?
Any additional requests should be made to Pat Seppi in an email.

4. Community members on the call described their general concerns about the Site

- ☐ Concern about risk assessment and there is related interest in seeing the recent health assessment conducted by NYU.
- ☐ Many people expressed interest in Dr. Peter deFur being the advisor because of his past experience at the Site.
- ☐ Concern that beginning with a new technical advisor would be counterproductive.
- ☐ Interest in having more notice before meetings and an agenda sent out with more time for preparation.
- ☐ Interest in a technical advisor having mining experience.
- ☐ Interest in the toxic waste that was put in the landfill (not included in the soil sampling report or groundwater reports).
- ☐ Interest in an advisor that has expertise in EPA decision making and procedures.
- ☐ Concern that Skeo does not have the appropriate expertise to provide technical advising assistance.
- ☐ Concern that the technical advisor needs to be able to review all documents related to the Site, not be limited to the most recent four.
- ☐ Work on trust building between EPA and the community and the community and the town leaders.
- ☐ Interest in having a TAG advisor.
- ☐ Interest in whether the advisor can attend monthly CAG meetings.
- ☐ Interest in seeing the TASC contract (available here: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/174612.pdf>)
- ☐ Interest in understanding the technical advisor selection process under TASC.

5. Questions on technical advising and what can be expected from a technical advisor

- ☐ None additional to the above

6. Expectations for next steps

- ☐ Conversation about expectations for the Community Involvement Plan. A draft report has been prepared and is being reviewed by the people who were interviewed for the plan. Comments are requested by March 10. The draft will be shared with the broader public after initial comments are received and there will be additional opportunities to weigh in on the plan.
- ☐ Pat Seppi and Judy Talbot discussed having a meeting with a subset of the group to begin re-organizing the CAG on March 13 from 6 to 8 pm.
- ☐ Community members discussed potential funding opportunities for the CAG and other grants that can be applied for.